

## Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 EB-11 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 COME-00 /117 W

----- 128245

R 151240Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9029

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THE FOLLOWING TEL FROM BOMBAY SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA  
AND MADRAS DTD 14 JAN IS RPTD:

QUOTE

BOMBAY 0113

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS/ PINT IN

SUBJ: PM CANCELS JAN 14-15 BOMBAY VISIT

1. FACED WITH WHAT APPEARED ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE MASSIVE BROAD  
BASED PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS OVER FOOD SHORTAGES AND RISING  
PRICES THROUGHOUT HER JAN 14-15 VISIT BOMBAY, MRS GANDHI  
OPTED OUT AT ELEVENTH HOUR AND VERY LIKELY ON BASIS ADVICE  
FROM POLITICAL AS WELL AS SECURITY QUARTERS. LOCAL PRESS  
THIS MORNING CITES AS "REASONS" FOR CALCELLATION 1) NEED  
FINALIZE LIST OF HER PARTY CANDIDATES FOR U.P. ELECTIONS AND  
2) BEGINNING OF "CRUCIAL" TALKS WITH VISITING IRANIAN DELEGATION  
JAN 15. GROUPS PLANNING DEMONSTRATIONS INCLUDING LEFTIST  
TRADE UNIONS HAVE HAILED CANCELLATION AS "VICTORY" AND AS  
INDICATING SHE AFRAID TO FACE IRE OF PEOPLE. SOCIALIST PARTY  
CHAIRMAN CEORGE FERNANDEZ, QUOTED AS SAYING SOLIDARITY  
OF PEASONS AND WORKERS OF MAHARASHTRA HAD COMPELLED HER TO  
PUT OFF VISIT.

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2. COMMENT: IN OUR VIEW PM OPTED FOR LESSER OF TWO EVILS  
NEITHER OF WHICH ATTRACTIVE POLITICALLY FROM HER STANDPOINT  
POLICE AND SECURITY OFFICIALS HOWEVER WILL BE RELIVED BECAUSE  
THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN CONFRONTED BY AN UNENVIABLE SITUATION.  
BY CANCELLING AND FOR UNCONVINCING REASONS SHE EXPOSES HERSELF  
TO THE CHARGE THAT SHE IS AFRAID TO COME TO BOMBAY AND FACE  
THE WRATH OF THE PEOPLE. ON OTHER HAND HAD SHE COME SHE WOULD  
HAVE HAD TO FACE LIKELY LARGE SCALE PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS  
THROUGHOUT HER VISIT WHICH WOULD HAVE CONSTITUTED A MASSIVE  
PUBLIC INDICTMENT OF THE INEFFECTIVENESS CONGRESS GOVT ON THE  
EVE OF THE UP ELECTIONS. POLICE WOULD LIKELY HAVE OVER-  
REACTED IN TRYING PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF NAGPUR WHERE  
SHE DRIVEN OFF SPEAKERS PLATFORM ON JAN 2 AND A  
FAIR NUMBER OF HEADS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE BEEN CRACKED IN THE  
PROCESS. THIS WOULD NOT HAVE MADE THE SITUATION ANY EASIER  
FOR THE PM. MOREOVER MASSIVE ABSTENTIONS AT JAN 13 PARLIA-  
MENTARY POLL BOMBAY WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE INTERPRETED AS  
SUGGESTING PEOPLE FED UP WITH GOVT AND THEIR LOSS OF CONFIDENCE  
IN IT. OUTCOME WILL NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL EVENING BUT  
IF CONGRESS WINS IT WILL BE NO "VICTORY" IN ANY EVENT  
IT APPARS THAT WISER COUNSEL PREVAILED AS FAR AS PM'S VISIT  
BOMBAY CONCERNED. FACT REMAINS HOWEVER THAT CANCELLATION OF  
PM'S VISIT TO BOMBAY HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND ONE THAT UNDERSCORES EXTENT POPULAR DISSATISFACTION  
AND DISENCHANTMENT WITH CONGRESS GOVT AND ITS ABILITY TO DO  
JOB.  
BAND  
UNQUOTE.  
MOYNIHAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOOD SHORTAGE, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, PRICES, ELECTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974NEWDE00689  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740141/aaaabmhn.tel  
**Line Count:** 90  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

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**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PM CANCELS JAN 14-15 BOMBAY VISIT  
**TAGS:** PINT, IN, (GANDHI, INDIRA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005